



Christmas Eve

Service of Worship and
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Pickens Presbyterian Church

311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

**"To the Glory of God, and
the Service of People"**

The Church Gathers

Chiming of the Hour

Preparation for Worship

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, first in silence, then as we listen to the prelude.

Prelude

“Variations on ‘Coventry Carol’”

Charles Callahan

***Call to Worship & Lighting the Advent Candle**

The Robert Simms Family

And we all say together,

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Advent Wreath Prayer

Advent Wreath Song #12 (vs 1-5)

“People Look East”

- 1. People, look east. The time is near Of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.*
- 2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.*
- 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.*
- 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim, Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.*
- 5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.*

The Church Confesses

***Hymn #41**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession:**

Emmanuel, you have given us a gift that we can never deserve. You do not ask us to be worthy. You do not ask us to earn your love. Yet the ways we have fallen short threaten to overtake us. But we know we can come to you, even on this holiest of nights, to seek the forgiveness you offer so freely, grateful for your mercy. . . . (silent, personal confession) Amen.

***Kyrie**

*You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy.
You are the Christ, Giver of Mercy.
You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy.*

***Assurance of Pardon**

. . . in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. *Thanks be to God.*

***Gloria Patri #579**

The Church Proclaims God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Cindy Townsend

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9.2-7

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

***Hymn #43**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Psalter Reading: Psalm 96.1-13

Special Music: *"There's A Song in the Air"*

Soloist: Donna Simms

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 2.1-20

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Special Music: *"The First Noel"*

Trumpet: Adam Marsh, French Horn: June Simms

Sermon

"A Child is Born"

The Reverend Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

Offering

Offertory

"O Holy Night"

Soloist: Mrs. Carolyn Yarborough

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Doxology #592**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Prayer of Consecration

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Holy God,
. . . joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every
time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

. . . Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ was born,

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer (debts/Debtors)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our Debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Wine

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Bless the Lord, O my soul, *and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, *and forget not all God's benefits.*

Special Music

"Were You There on That Christmas Night?"

N Sleeth

Ladies Ensemble: Peggy Torrey, Carolyn Yarborough, Donna Simms,
Starla Taylor, Cindy Wood, Debbie Hendricks

The Service of Lights

A Candlelight Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

(To be sung while the candlelight is being passed)

- 1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*
- 2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heaven-ly hosts sing: "Al-le-lu-ia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."*
- 3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

4. *Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Al-le-lu-ia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

***Recessional Hymn**

Joy to the World

(The congregation forms a circle on the front sidewalk and continues singing until everyone is outside)

1. *Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*
2. *Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*
3. *No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.*
4. *He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

(Continue singing until everyone is outside)

***Christmas Blessing**

Worship Has Ended – Service Begins

**Those who are able may stand at these times.*



The Greatest Gift

Fear Not!

On that first Christmas night, the angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid" (Luke 2:10). What is there to fear from a baby? A baby is powerless, with no guile, no anger and no judgment, only needing from us without fearing we will not provide: simply trusting, and content to be resting in our arms. This is how God came. This is Christmas. This one child, and for a time, perhaps too brief, our fears are taken over by our love for this child, and he is able to change our hearts. ...

In Jesus, we are free to live life as fully and as joyfully as we will allow ourselves. For it is only we who hold ourselves back. God does not. For God has forgiven us in this baby and will not restrain us from living with sheer abandon, trusting in this gentle and gracious God, who keeps telling us: "Do not be afraid."

—Gary Westgard, *At Break of Day*

A Merry and Blessed Christmas to You All!



PICKENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ministers – All Members
Transitional Pastor – The Reverend Dr. David Torrey
Parish Associate – The Reverend Beverly Kelly
Church Administrator/Treasurer – Cyndi Banks
Interim Choir Director – Dr. Marianne Holland
Interim Organist – Steve Ellison
Director of Child Development Center – Chasity Lesley

SESSION & COMMITTEES

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Deb Holtel	Ken Acker	Tina LaFoy
Len Josefson	Roger Gettys	Donna Owen
Dr. Jim Mahanes	Rocky Harden	Debbie Teeple
Matt McCann	Roy Stoddard	Cindy Townsend
	Ken Townsend	
Trustee: Leo Tilley	Trustee: Allison Ranson	Trustee: Debbie Carmical

Moderator: Rev. Dr. David A. Torrey

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Clerk of Session: Matt McCann

Assistant Clerk of Session: Deb Holtel

Deacons: Betsey Chalmers and Austin Townsend

Building and Grounds: Roy Stoddard (Moderator), Rocky Harden, Len Josefson

Child Development Center: Jim Mahanes

Christian Education: Cindy Townsend (Moderator)

Church Office and Administration: Donna Owen

Congregational Care: Deb Holtel (Moderator)

Evangelism and Membership: Tina LaFoy (Moderator), Len Josefson

Financial Oversight: Ken Acker (Moderator), Donna Owen, Ken Townsend

Mission and Outreach: Roger Gettys (Moderator), Tina LaFoy

Worship: Debbie Teeple (Moderator)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION

Presbyterian Women Moderator – Nancy Goldsmith

Sarah/Emily Circle Co- Moderators – Christa Schwab and Kay Tilley

Eve Circle Moderators – Sherry Schell and Debbie Carmical

THE GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH

(Book of Order) G-1.0200

The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
The maintenance of divine worship
The preservation of the truth
The promotion of social righteousness
The exhibition of the Kingdom to the world

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